



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### DEQ and LSP partner to investigate environmental crimes

BATON ROUGE – Today, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Louisiana State Police announced a partnership in the investigation and enforcement of criminal violations of the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act.

LSP Colonel Mike Edmonson and DEQ Secretary Harold Leggett announced that the two agencies will partner and share resources to investigate environmental crimes throughout the state. As the primary agency in regards to environmental protection and regulation, DEQ has combined their resources with LSP in order to maximize their shared mission of providing for the safety of the people of Louisiana.

"The State Police's responsibility to protect the citizens of Louisiana stretches far beyond the highways of the state," said Colonel Mike Edmonson, State Police Superintendent. "The opportunity to partner with Sec. Leggett and his staff is a win-win for our agencies but most importantly for our citizens. We will share expertise, training and resources to ensure that Louisiana's environment is protected and preserved for the future. "

The partnership has already seen success. DEQ's Criminal Investigations Division and LSP have jointly participated in operational activities such as the investigation of illegal dumping, waste burning and the execution of search warrants. LSP's Troop E recently assisted DEQ-CID in the apprehension of a wanted felony suspect. In addition, LSP has supported DEQ's law enforcement mission by providing two law enforcement vehicles to DEQ-CID.

All DEQ-CID investigators receive special commissions through LSP. LSP has provided advanced training to DEQ-CID investigators in areas such as surveillance techniques, interview and interrogation, firearms, ground fighting and defensive tactics.

"This partnership is a perfect example of implementing streamlining practices to make government more efficient," Leggett said. "Combining resources gives both agencies more manpower and reduces overlap. We have always worked well with the State Police and now we will continue to do so in a more proactive manner."

In order to accomplish these goals most efficiently, comprehensive policies are being established statewide. These policies will serve to unify, coordinate and implement programs which will maximize the use of the state's resources in order to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the environment in Louisiana.

This partnership will serve to provide additional resources throughout the state with regard to enforcement of environmental crimes. The support from LSP will assist DEQ in their mission of enforcing state environmental regulations with regard to promoting water and air quality, while controlling solid and hazardous waste discharges.